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THE

# ART OF ANGLING FOR BEGINNERS



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FOR BEGINNERS.

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BY

THE EDITOR OF

“THE COMIC RECITER,” “THE ART OF ROWING,  
FOR BEGINNERS,” ETC. ETC.

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THE  
**ART OF ANGLING,**  
FOR BEGINNERS.

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Introduction.

ANGLING is the art of catching fish by means of a rod, line, and baited hook; it is so termed because when held over the surface of the water, the apparatus forms an angle.

This art, which is practised either for means of support or amusement, has long held a high position among the sports of merrie England; men of the highest intellect have delighted in its practice; it is neither confined to England, ages, or grades of society, for we read of it in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:—"The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks."—chap. xix, v. 8, and also in the records of ancient Egypt, Assyria, &c.

It is a fact admitted by almost all writers, that England has been, from the earliest period of her history, the most zealous propagator of the art of Angling. The most notable writer on this subject was Izaak Walton, who gave to us the "Complete Angler," a work of great merit, but which was soon

after augmented and improved by Charles Cotton, which to this day is highly esteemed, not only for its correctness, but for the humorous and poetic style in which it is written.

The pleasure which angling yields seems to be very great, for according to old Walton, "all recreations sink into insignificance compared with angling." That eminent legislator and man of genius, the late Hon. Daniel Webster, has beautifully and poetically described the pleasure he derived from an angling tour, which, did space permit, we would insert. That great, earnest, and prolific orator and divine, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, in a speech delivered before a number of young men some little time ago, most pathetically described the delight and mental improvement which he received when a boy in the recreation of the rod: and we ourselves well remember the many happy hours spent sitting beside the stream, our legs hanging over the water, while holding the rod. Although never very successful but once, that was after waiting a considerable length of time for a customer; he came at last in the shape of a young eel: delighted with our prize, we took great care to store it safely away, thinking it would be such a relish for the next morning's breakfast. Accordingly, on arriving home, mother was informed of our success but not our desire; consequently, next morning, when we asked if the eel were cooked, the answer was,— "Yes, by the cat." This reply affected us so much that tears filled our eyes, and it was with great difficulty we kept them from falling.

"To enjoy this fine pastime," says a writer, "the mountaineer descends to the valley-stream, the Magister Artium quits his learned halls and collegiate

ease for the banks of the deeps, the weirs, and the tumbling bays of Cam; the citizen his shop and beloved ledger for a hickory rod and a creek in the Roding, and the courtier his rich Turkey carpet, ottoman and lustre, for 'Nature's grassy foot cloth,' the rough bark of a felled river-side tree, and the sparkling surface of a rippled stream. The boy who was but 'breeched a Wednesday,' often spends his holiday hour on the banks of a brook, with a crooked pin for his hook, a needleful of thread for his line, and an alder switch for the rod; and the grey-headed statesman—nay, even royalty itself—occasionally relaxes from the grave duties attendant on such superior station, from weighing the balance of power, and determining the fate of nations, 'to wield the rod and cast the mimic fly.'"

### Articles requisite for Anglers.

A great variety of articles are necessary for an angler's complete outfit, so that he may be ready at such time when occasion may require. As the present work is only for the young beginner and not for the professor, we shall therefore give a list only which necessity demands, and which a small amount of cash will purchase:—

Rods for trolling and bottom fishing.

Lines of gut, hair, &c.—those of four yards long will be found most useful.

Reels for running tackle.

Hooks for trolling; the gorge, snap, &c.

Hooks tied on gut, of various sizes, to No. 12.

Hooks tied on hair, from No. 11 to 13.

Two or three floats of different sizes.

Split shot, disgorgers, a few caps for floats, landing net, and clearing ring.

Bag for worms and gentle box.

Drag to clear the line when entangled with heavy weeds.

Kettle for carrying live bait, and fishing basket.

Pocket knife, cobbler's wax, sewing silk, and a ball of small twine.

### Fishing Rods.

One of the most essential instruments an angler requires is a good rod. Go to a shop where there is a good variety. They are made of vine, hazel, hickory, and bamboo. For general use those made of the latter are best, having several tops of various strengths; but cane are superior for fine fishing. If the reader is in a remote country place and cannot buy a rod, we give directions for making one from the "Boy's Own Book." The stocks should be cut off in the winter; hazel and yew switches are the best for tops, and crab-tree for stocks. Do not use them till well seasoned; the longer they are kept the better. The rod should consist of five or six pieces, fitted so nicely that the whole rod may appear as if it were one piece only. The best rods are those that are brass ferruled; but if they are bound together, it must be with thread, strongly waxed, the pieces being cut with a slope or slant, that they may join with the greater exactness. Six or eight inches must be taken from the top, and in its place a smooth round taper piece of whalebone substituted, on which a strong loop of horse-hair must be previously whipped. We also think John Younger's advice very good; we

therefore let him speak :—"To those who reside near the water, I would recommend a rod all of glued and tied joints as best in point of real use, and not so liable to break in the moment of action. Or, indeed, even for travelling, I would prefer tied joints, as wherever a person has time to stop to fish, though only for a day or two, he has at least five minutes to spare for tying his rod in a sufficient manner. Rods are often breaking at brass joints; and those who use them, instead of bringing in a back-load of fish, are constantly arriving home from the water, telling you, 'I've broken my rod!' Such sickening news may generally be prevented by tied joints."

Never keep the rod too dry, nor too moist, for the one will make it brittle and the other rotten.

### Lines.

Fishing lines are made of various material, but in our opinion horse-hair is the best. The colour should be white and grey for clear waters, and sorrel for muddy rivers. When you have done with the line never put it away until it is perfectly dry; wave it well in the air before you wind it up or put it away. Before using it again give it a gentle tug to try its strength.

### Hooks.

We earnestly recommend all our readers to provide themselves with good hooks. They are numbered, so that if you want to take gudgeon use Nos. 10 and 11; or roach, dace and bleak, Nos. 10, 11, or 12; for tench, carp, and perch, Nos. 7, 8, and 9; for eels,

No. 8; for grayling, No. 10; for ruff, No. 9, &c. Always keep a small stock of various sorts ready for use.

### **Floats.**

Floats are formed of cork, porcupine quills, goose and swan quills, &c. For heavy fish, or strong streams, use a cork float; in slow water, and for lighter fish, quill floats. To make the former, take a sound, common cork, and bore it with a small red-hot iron through the centre, lengthways; then taper it down across the grain, about two-thirds of the length, and round the top, forming it, as a whole, into the shape of a pear. Load your floats so as just to sink them short of the top.

### **Bait-Fishing.**

Having spoken of the tackle, we enter upon the next important thing—baits. Their different kinds being very numerous, a little more attention is required of the young angler. We begin by taking a little advice from “Chambers’s.”

“This kind of angling is practised to a great extent in the Thames, the Lea, and other deep and somewhat dull rivers in England. The fish usually sought for in these waters are gudgeon, dace, roach, bream, chub, barbel, tench, carp, perch, and pike: all are sometimes taken by fly; but a bait of worms, gentles, roe, or some other material, is commonly employed. The angler in these rivers usually stands on the shore while fishing; but in some instances he fishes from a punt, or small flat-bottomed boat, in which his chief



occupation is to sit watching his float, and pulling in his line when a fish appears to be hooked. Among the apparatus of this order of deep-water fishers, a plummet and line is carried, in order to sound the depth of the river, which having ascertained, the angler puts his float upon the line, at that point which will allow the bait to trail slightly on, or just free of the bottom, while the float swims on the surface.

"The first thing the bait-fisher has to learn is the art of baiting his hooks. Taking the hook in his right hand, and the bait between his fingers in the left, let him enter the hook at the head of the worm, and carry it through the animal to near the tail, covering the entire hook and its tying. The worm should be broken or mangled as little as possible; and the more lifelike it appears, the greater the probability of its proving an effectual lure. There must not, however, be too much spare worm left dangling from the hook, otherwise the fish will keep nibbling it away without biting at the bait bodily, and taking it into its mouth, the thing which the angler desires.

"In throwing the line with bait, take care not to splash the water, but throw somewhat horizontally forward, so as to let the bait fall gently on the surface, and sink slowly in the water to the required depth. After sinking, the rod and line should be very slowly moved in a direction against the stream, or in some other way to give motion to the bait, which the fish perceiving to glide through the water, will hasten to seize upon. As fishes, however, are always on the outlook for floating garbage, one-half the dragging and twittering which bait fishers generally employ is altogether useless, often positively

hurtful, as scaring rather than alluring the objects of their capture.

“Occasionally the angler will **FEEL** a nibble, but he must not be in a hurry to **STRIKE**—that is, to draw the fish from the water. Perhaps it is no more than a nibble, and it is well to allow the fish time to get the hook in his mouth. If drawn too quickly, you may actually pull away the hook after it is half-gulped. Experience and dexterity are required in this ticklish part of the craft. As a general rule, do not strike till the line has been distinctly tugged, then strike by a slow side motion at first, then a more quick jerk, so as to cause the hook to catch in the jaws of the animal. Supposing the fish to be hooked, do not draw it violently out of the water, as if in a transport of delight, but wind up part of your loose line if necessary, and holding up your rod, retire gradually backward, by which the fish may be landed on the shore. A good angler does not lay aside his rod to take a fish from the hook, unless it be of great size, requiring two hands; if small, hold the rod in the right hand while you catch the fish with the left; unhook it without mangling, place it in the basket, put on a new bait, and once more proceed to your sport.”

### Baits.

Fish generally take such baits as the season will afford, as worms, &c.: in spring and autumn worms may be used all day, but in summer only early in the morning, and late in the evening. Baits are so fully described in the “*Boy's Own Book*” that we take the liberty of extracting the following information on the subject.

“The lob-worm, garden-worm, and dew-worm, or trechet, are found in gardens and churchyards at night; those with red heads, broad tails, and streaked down the back are the best. The worms are excellent bait for barbel or eels, and are found towards the latter end of the summer.

“Gilt-tails, brandlings, and red worms are found in old dung-hills, hog’s dung, cow’s dung, and tanner’s bark. The brandling and gilt-tail are excellent bait for perch, tench, bream and gudgeon. The red worms, well scoured, are taken by tench, perch, and bream, in muddy waters.

“The meadow, or marsh-worm, is of a lightish blue colour, and a good bait for perch: it is found in marshy ground, or in the banks of rivers in the months of August and September.

“The tag-tail is found in meadows, or chalky ground after rain, in March and April, and esteemed a good bait for trout in cloudy weather.

“The palmer-worm, woolbed, or canker, is found on herbs, plants, and trees, and takes the name of woolbed from its rough and woolly coat. This is an excellent bait for trout, chub, grayling, roach, or dace.

“The oak-worm, caterpillar, cabbage-worm, crab-tree-worm, colewort-worm or grub, may be gathered on the leaves of colewort and cabbage, or on the hawthorn, oak, or crab-tree, and may be long preserved with the leaves of those trees or plants, in boxes bored with holes to admit the air. They are good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

“The bark-worm, or ash-grub, is found under the bark of a felled oak, ash, elder, or beach, or in the hollow of those trees where rotten. This Bait

may be used all the year for grayling, dace, roach, or chub. They are kept well in wheat-bran.

“The cod-bait, caddis-worm, or case-worm, of which there are three sorts, is found in pits, ponds, or ditches; they are excellent baits for bream, tench, bleaks, chub, trout, grayling, and dace.

“Gentles, or maggots, are easily bred by putrefaction; they may be kept with flesh, and scoured with wheat-bran. They are good baits for tench, bream, barbel, dace, gudgeon, chub, bleak, and carp.

“Cow-dung-bob, is found under cow-dung, and somewhat resembles a gentle. It is best kept in earth, and is a good bait for trout, chub, carp, tench, bream, dace, and roach.

“The white-grub, or white-bait, is much larger than a maggot; it is found in sandy and mellow ground, and is an excellent bait from the middle of April till November, for tench, roach, bream, trout, chub, dace, and carp. These baits should be kept in an earthen vessel, with the earth about them, and covered very close.

“Flag or dock-worms are found among the small fibres of flag roots, and in old pits or ponds. They may be kept in bran, and are good baits for bream, tench, roach, carp, bleak, dace, and perch.

“Boiled salmon-spawn is a very good bait for chub, and in some rivers, for trout.

“Dace, minnows, roach, smelt, gudgeon, bleak, and miller's-thumb, are proper bait for pike.

“Grasshoppers, in June, July, and August, their legs and wings taken off, are good for roach, chub, trout, and grayling.

“Cheese, or oat-cake, is reckoned killing for chub,

barbel, roach, and dace; the cheese you may moisten with honey and water.

“The water-cricket, water-louse, or creeper, which is found in stony rivers, will often take trout in March, April, and May.

“White snails are good bait for chub, early in the morning, and for trout and eels on night hooks.

“House-cricket are also good, to dib with, for chub.

“Paste-baits are not to be angled with in rapid streams; but in pits, ponds, and slow running rivers, on small hooks. In this sort of angling, your eye must be quick, and your hand nimble to strike, or the bait and fish will give you the slip. A quill float is better than cork, as it sooner shows the nibble or bite.

“For a chub, take some old cheese, the suet of mutton kidney, and a little strong rennet; mix them finely together, with as much turmeric as will give them a fine yellow colour.

“For roach and dace, grate fine bread into a little clear water, wherein some gum-ivy has been soaked, add a little butter, and colour it with saffron.

“For barbel, in August, make a paste of new cheese, and mutton suet.

“For carp or tench, mix crumbs of bread with honey; or, for carp, take equal portions of bean or wheat-flour, the inside of a leg of a young rabbit, white bees' wax, and sheep's suet; beat them in a mortar; then moisten the mass with clarified honey, and work it into balls before a gentle fire.

“Sheep's blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, dace, bleak, chub, trout, and perch; for the chub only, put a little rusty bacon in it.

### Ground-Baits.

“The most simple ground-bait for roach, dace, and bleak, is made by moulding or working some clay and bran together, into balls or pieces, about the size of a pigeon’s egg, with a little bread crumbled among it.

“Another ground-bait for chub, carp, roach, and dace, is made as follows:—Take the crumb of half a quartern loaf and cut it in slices about two inches thick, and put it into a pan covered with water; when soaked, squeeze it nearly dry; add equal quantities of bran and pollard, by handfuls, and knead them together, until the whole is nearly as stiff as clay. For barbel, first break about a quarter of a pound of greaves to dust, soak it well in water, and then work it up with the bread, bran, and pollard. Barley-meal may be substituted for the bran and pollard, in still waters only; as, from its lightness, it would be carried away in a rapid stream.

“A ground-bait may be made with clay, bran, and gentles, for chub, roach, and carp, thus:—Mix the bran and clay together, in lumps about the size of an apple; put a dozen or more gentles in the middle, and close the clay over them. This is well calculated for a pond, a still hole, or gentle eddy.”

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### THE VARIOUS KINDS OF FISH.

We now proceed to make known to our readers the haunts and habits of fish usually taken in Great Britain by anglers; the season for taking them; where found; the proper time to angle; and the

depth from ground. Also, the hooks and baits most commonly used for each fish, in alphabetical order as space will allow.

### The Barbel.

The barbel, so called from its four barbs, two of which are at the corners of its mouth, and the others at the end of its snout, is a heavy, dull fish, and gives very inferior sport to the angler, in proportion to its size and strength. The barbel begin to shed their spawn about the middle of April, and come in season about a month or six weeks after. In their usual haunts, among weeds, &c., they are fond of rooting with their nose like the pig. In summer they frequent the most powerful and rapid currents, and settle among logs of wood, piles, and weeds, where they remain for a long time apparently immovable—during the winter time, they return to deep bottoms. The most killing baits for the barbel are the spawn of trout, salmon, or, indeed, of any other fish, especially if it be fresh, respecting which, the barbel is very cunning; the pastes that imitate it must, therefore, be well made, and of fresh flavour. It is also an advisable plan to bait the water over night, by spawn or a quantity of cut worms. The barbel will also bite well at the cob-worm, gentles, and cheese, soaked in honey. The rod and line with which you fish for barbel, must both be extremely long, with a running plummet attached to the latter, as they swim very close to the bottom. By a gentle inclination of the rod, you may easily ascertain when there is a bite, immediately upon which the fish should be struck, and seldom escapes, unless he break the line.

They are generally found in rapid and shallow streams, gravelly banks, under bridges, in currents, from the months of April to August, from sunrise till ten o'clock in the morning, and four in the afternoon to sunset. Many are caught in the River Thames, in boats, with a stout rod, running tackle, gut line, cork float, and No. 7 or 8 hook.

### The Bleak

Is a common river fish, so called from its bleak or white appearance. Angle for them with a light rod, single hair line, small quill float, three or four No. 12 or 13 hooks, bait with a few gentles, caddis-worms, found under stones, or a bit of red paste; in deep rivers, sandy bottoms, in eddies, and at ships' sterns. Numbers are taken from the river Thames, Lea, and New River, six inches; always below high water, all day long, from May to October.

### The Bream.

This bony fish sheds its spawn about Midsummer, and although occasionally met in slow running rivers, they are reckoned pond fish, where they will thrive in the greatest perfection, and have been known to weigh from eight to ten pounds. In fishing for them, the angler should be very silent, and take all possible care to keep concealed from the fish, which are angled for near the bottom. His tackle must also be strong. This fish, according to Dr. Shaw, is a native of many parts of Europe, inhabiting the still lakes and rivers, and is sometimes found even in the Caspian Sea.



The bream may be taken from slow rivers or mill ponds, near weeds, and in clay or muddy bottoms. Some say rough streams, about sunrise to nine o'clock, and three to sunset, in April to December. Use a small hook, a light rod, and quill float. Plumb the bottom, and let your bait rest about an inch above it.

### **The Chub, or Chevin.**

The Chub, or Chevin, is, like the perch, a very bold biter, and will rise eagerly at a natural or artificial fly. They spawn in June, or at the latter end of May, at which time they are easily caught by a fly, a beetle with his legs and wings cut off, or still more successfully by a large snail. When they are fished for at mid-water, or at bottom, a float should be made use of; when at top, it is customary to dib for them, or to use a fly, as if a trout were the angler's object. Strong tackle is also requisite, as they are heavy fish, and usually require a landing-net to pull them out. Their average length is from ten to fourteen inches. This fish is the squalus of Varro, and very common throughout England and the Eastern United States.

They are taken very early in the morning and very late in the evening, in May to December. Use hook No. 8 or 9.

### **The Dace.**

Dace are a very active and cautious fish, and rise to a fly, either real or artificial. It is necessary in angling for them to remain in concealment as much as possible. They spawn in February and March, and

they are but inferior in point of flavour. They frequent gravelly, clayey, and sandy bottoms, leaves of the water-lily, and deep holes, if well shaded. In sultry weather they are frequently caught in the shallows; and during that period are best taken with grasshoppers or gentles. In fishing at the bottom for roach or dace, which are similar in their haunts and disposition, bread, soaked in water and kneaded to a good consistency, and then made up together with bran into round balls, and thrown into the place where it is proposed to angle, will be found very serviceable, but must always be thrown up the stream. There is a mode of intoxicating dace, and by this means rendering them an easy prey; but this is no part of the real angler's sport. The Thames is well known to abound in dace; and the graining of the Mersey is thought to be a variety of the same species. Use hook one size larger than for a roach. May to October is the best time, unless the weather is very mild.

### Grayling.

The grayling, or umber, spawns in May, and is in the best condition in November. They will greedily take all the baits that a trout does, and frequent the same streams. They are said to have the fragrant smell of the plant thymallus. Their average length is from sixteen to eighteen inches: and they must be angled for with very fine tackle, as they are a remarkably timid fish. When hooked, they must also be cautiously worked, as the hold in their mouth easily gives way, but they will speedily return to the bait. It is fine eating; unknown to Scotland or Ireland.

With a light rod, a cork float, a fine hook, and a

running line, they may be caught any time in the day, especially cloudy weather, from September to January, three inches from bottom, in cold weather and in hot, mid-water, in clear and quick streams, clayey bottom.

### Gudgeon.

The gudgeon is a fish in some request, both for its flavour and the sport it affords to the inexperienced angler. It is very simple, and is allured with almost any kind of bait. It spawns two or three times during the year, is generally from five to six inches long, and fond of gentle streams with a gravelly bottom. In angling for gudgeon, the bottom should be previously stirred up, as this rouses them from a state of inactivity, and collects them in shoals together. Some anglers use two or three hooks in gudgeon fishing. A float is always used, but the fish should not be struck on the first motion of it, as they are accustomed to nibble the bait before they swallow it. It frequently happens that, in angling for gudgeons, perch are caught. May to October is the time for catching them.

### The Minnow.

The minnow, or minim, one of the smallest river fish, seldom exceeds two inches in length. They spawn generally about once in two or three years, and swim together in shoals, in shallow waters, where they are very free and bold in biting. They serve also as excellent baits for pike, trout, chub, perch, and many other fish, which prey upon them and devour them greedily.

Minnows may be taken any part of the day all the year round. Use light tackle, a No. 13 hook, baited with brown paste made with brown bread, gentles, or blood worms.

### The Perch.

The perch is a very bold biting fish, and affords excellent amusement to the angler. He is distinguished by the beauty of his colours, and by a large erection on his back, strongly armed with stiff and sharp bristles, which he can raise or depress at pleasure. Defended by this natural excrescence, he bids defiance to the attacks of the ravenous and enormous pike, and will even dare to attack one of his own species. Perch spawn about the beginning of March, and measure from eight to fourteen inches. In fishing for perch with a minnow, or brandling, the hook should be run through the back fin of the bait, which must hang about six inches from the ground. A large cork float should be attached to the line, which should be leaded about nine inches from the hook. It must be observed that they invariably refuse a fly.

The perch is found in deep rivers and ponds, holes, weeds, and gravelly bottoms, in mid-day, cloudy weather: from August to May is the proper time and season to angle for them. Strong tackle and hook No. 7 is required.

### The Jack, or Pike.

The jack, or pike, is a fish of enormous size, and the greatest voracity; indeed, so notorious is he for the latter quality, as to have gained the appellation of the fresh-water shark. They are also great breeders.

According to a common but fallacious account, they were originally brought to England about the reign of Henry VIII. They were certainly at that time considered as great rarities. Their usual time of spawning is about March, in extremely shallow waters. The finest pike are those which feed in clear rivers; those of fens or meres being of very inferior quality. They grow to a vast size in these last-mentioned places, where they feed principally on frogs, and such like nutriment. They are reckoned to be the most remarkable for longevity of all fresh-water fish; are solitary and melancholy in their habits, generally swimming by themselves, and remaining alone in their haunts, until compelled by hunger to roam in quest of food. A high wind, or a dark, cloudy day, promises the best sport in angling for this kind of fish, as their appetite is keener at those periods.

There are three modes of catching pike: by the ledger, the trolling, or walking bait, and the trimmer. The ledger is a bait fixed by a stick driven into the ground, in one particular spot, or the angler's rod may be so secured; a live bait is attached to the hook, such as dace, gudgeon, or roach; and, if a frog is made use of, the largest and yellowest will be found the most tempting. Sufficient line must be left free to allow the pike to carry the bait to his haunts. When fish are used as baits, the hook must be securely struck through the upper lip; and the line should be between twelve and fourteen yards in length. If a frog should be made use of for a bait, the arming wire of the hook should be put in at the mouth and out at the side, and the hinder leg of one side should be fastened to it with strong silk. The

second method, or trolling for pike, is the most general, and, at the same time, the most diverting way of catching them. There are several small rings, which are fixed to each joint of the trolling-rod, and on the bottom and thickest joint a reel is placed. To this reel twenty or thirty yards of line, according to the option of the angler, are not uncommonly attached; the line passes through each ring of the rod, and is then joined to the gimp, or wire, to which the hook, or hooks, are suspended. Two large hooks are used, about the size adapted to perch-fishing, which are placed back to back. There is also a little chain, which hangs between the two hooks, and at the end of this chain is a leaden plummet, sewn, or fastened in some secure way, into the mouth of a dead fish, and the hooks are left exposed on the outside. The bait, when it is thus fastened, is constantly moved about in the water; that, by the continuance and variety of its movements (being sometimes raised, and sometimes kept sinking), now going with the stream, now against it, the resemblance to life may appear more striking and probable. The pike, if he be near, no sooner perceives this bait, than he immediately darts at it with velocity, supposing it to be a living fish, and drags it with him to his hole, where, in about ten or twelve minutes, he voraciously devours it, and implants the two hooks in his body. When he is thus secured, you must allow him ample time to fatigue and weary himself, then drag him slowly and carefully to shore, and land him with your net, being cautious of his bite.

The third mode by which pike are occasionally caught, is by the trimmer, a small wooden cylinder, round which, about the middle, in a small diameter,

twenty or thirty yards of strong platted silk, or pack-thread, are wound. A yard, or perhaps more, as occasion suits, is suffered to hang down in the water, tied to the armed wire of a hook, constructed for the purpose, and baited with a living fish, commonly a roach. The trimmer is now permitted to go wherever the current drives it, and the angler silently follows, until a fish has poached the bait, when he comes up and secures his prey, and retires with it to the reeds, near shore. Whatever fish are made use of in catching pike, they should be fresh, and preserved in a tin kettle, the water of which, if changed frequently, will considerably improve them.

It may be noted in this place, that pike are denominated jack until they have attained the length of twenty-four inches: their usual haunts are shady, still, unfrequented waters, near which are dark, overhanging boughs, and abundance of weeds; they are also to be met with in standing waters or ditches, which are partly overspread with that green, slimy substance, which is better known by the name of duck-weed. In such places he is sometimes discovered at the top, and occasionally in the middle of the water; but in cold weather he is almost always at the bottom.

### The Pope, or Ruff.

The pope, or ruff, is a fish very similar in its nature and appearance to the perch, and is frequently caught when fishing for the latter. They spawn in March and April, and are taken with a brandling, gentles, or caddis. They are extremely voracious in their disposition, and will devour a minnow, which is almost as big as themselves. In their favourite

haunts of gentle, deep streams, overhung by trees, they swim in shoals together, and you may fish for them either at the top or the bottom of the water, as they are known to bite in almost any weather, and in any situation. Their average length is from six to seven inches. In angling for pope use hook No. 8 or 9, with a quill float.

### **The Roach.**

Roach are frequently taken with flies, under water. They will bite at the baits which are prepared for chub or dace, and are considered a simple and foolish fish. They spawn in May, and turn red when boiled. The compactness of their flesh gave rise to the proverb—"Sound as a roach." The roach haunts shallow and gentle streams, and the mouths of small streams which run into larger ones. In angling for roach, the tackle must be strong, and the float large and well leaded, and hook No. 10 and 11.

### **The Tench.**

Tench, like the carp, are generally considered pond fish, although they have been frequently caught in the river Stour. They shed their spawn about the commencement of July, and are in season from September to the latter end of May. They will bite very freely during the summer months. Their haunts are similar to those of the carp, except that they frequent the foulest and muddiest bottoms, where they may shelter themselves among an infinite quantity of reeds; hence you must angle for them very near the bottom, and allow them sufficient time to gorge the bait. Use strong tackle, and a goose-quill float without a cork.



The general length of the tench is from twelve to fourteen inches, though some have been occasionally caught which weighed upwards of ten pounds; such occurrences, however, are very rare.

### Trout.

Trout is considered as one of the finest river fish that this country can produce. Its colours are beautifully varied at different seasons of the year, and according to the rivers it frequents.

They abound in the generality of our streams, rivers, and lakes, and are usually angled for with an artificial fly. Their weight also differs from half a pound to three; some few have been caught which weighed upwards of four pounds. Trout are extremely voracious; and, by their activity and eagerness, afford famous diversion to the angler. They are remarkable for coming to their size quicker than any other fish, though they fatten slow; as also for being very short-lived. They die when taken out of water sooner than any other with which we are acquainted. Previous to their spawning, they are observed to force a passage through weirs and flood-gates against the stream; and how they are enabled to overcome some of these impediments is a subject of much conjecture. Their general time of shedding their spawn is about October or November; in some rivers, however, it is much sooner, in others later. They are also met with in eddies, where they remain concealed from observation behind a stone, or log, or a bank that projects into the stream: during the latter part of the summer, they are frequently caught in a mill-tail, and sometimes under the hollow of a bank, or the roots of a tree.

In angling for trout, there are many things worthy of particular observation:—1st. That the day on which the sport is undertaken be a little windy, or partially overcast; and the south wind is superior to all others, if it do not too much disturb your tackle. 2nd. The sportsman should remain as far as possible from the stream, fish it downwards, the line never touching the water, as the agitation proceeding from the fall might disturb the fish and preclude all possibility of capturing them. 3rd. Clear streams are famous for sport; and in fishing in them, a small fly with slender wings must be attached to the hook. When the water is thick, and the sight more imperfect from this disadvantage, a larger species of bait must of necessity be used. 4th. The line should, on an average, be about twice as long as the rod, unless in cases of emergency, when the number and variety of trees exclude the probability of a successful throw, if at any distance. 5th. Let the fly be made to suit the season. After a shower, when the water becomes of a brown appearance, the most killing bait is the orange fly; in a clear day, the light-coloured fly; and on a gloomy day, in overshadowed streams, a dark fly. It is hardly necessary to add, that the angler, particularly in fly-fishing for trout, cannot be too quick in perception, or too active in striking on the first rise of the fish.

The trout may be caught at the top, the middle, or the bottom of the water. In angling for him at the top, with a natural fly, use the green-drake and the stone-fly; but these two only during the months of May and June. The mode of fishing in this way is called dipping, and is thus performed:—If there be little or no wind to disturb your tackle and agitate

the surface of the stream, make use of a line half the length of the rod. If there be a wind, increase the length of the line by one half. Let the line fly up or down the river, according to the direction of the wind; and when you are aware of the rise of a fish, guide the fly over him, as in case of striking him, you have no length of line with which to weary him: the capture must be effected by main force; and if the tackle is sufficiently strong to resist the struggles of the fish, the angler, after a short contest, may insure himself a triumph. Trout angling at mid-water is effected by means of a small minnow, or with a caddis-grub, or any other species of worm. In angling with a minnow, the moderately-sized and whitest ones will be found to be the most killing bait. It should be placed upon a large hook, to enable it to turn about when drawn against the stream; consequently the hook should be inserted in the mouth, and drawn out of the gills, or, perhaps, three or four inches beyond it would be necessary. It should be again drawn through the mouth with the point to the tail of the minnow; this finished, the hook and bait should be tied neatly together, by which means the evolutions of the bait will be more effectually, and at the same time more effectually, performed. The slack of the line should then be pulled back, so that the body shall be nearly straight on the hook. If the minnow do not turn nimbly enough for your purpose, let the bait be moved a little to the right or to the left, as occasion shall direct; which process, by inlaying the orifice made in the body of the minnow, will greatly facilitate its movements. Some have preferred the loach, as a bait, to the minnow; by those who are nice in these matters, the same precautions in attaching it should be scrupulously observed. In angling

with a worm or caddis, a cork float and the finest kind of tackle must necessarily be made use of, as the success of the young practitioner, in this enchanting amusement, will greatly depend on his choice of articles. In muddy waters, the lob-worm is considered the best bait; in clear streams, the brandling: the first is generally used for large trout; the second, where smaller ones are expected.

There are two methods of angling at bottom, either with a cork, or any other kind of float, or with the hand. The best way of angling with the hand, is by means of a ground bait, and a long line, which should have no more than one hair next the hook, and just above it one small spot for a plumb; the hook should be small, and the brandling well secured, and only one fastened on at a time; thus the worm must always be kept in motion, and drawn towards the person who is fishing. The best mode of angling at bottom, with a float, is with a caddis, which may be put upon the hook two or three at the same time; the caddis is sometimes advantageously joined to the worm, and occasionally even to an artificial fly, which should be placed upon the hook, so as merely to cover its points; the finest kind of tackle must be used in this experiment, and it is generally reputed a very killing bait, for either trout or grayling, at all seasons of the year. It is moreover a very common method to angle with a caddis at the top of the water. The caddis may be easily imitated by forming the head of the insect of black silk, and the body of yellow chamois leather. It must be remarked, however, that the trout will seldom or never rise at a caddis when the stream is impregnated with mud.

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